

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for logically provisioning resources in a data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for ~~one of a set of resources in a plurality of resources in a provisioning environment, wherein each resource in said set of resources is said one of said plurality of resources being~~ one of a plurality of different types of resources, wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;

selecting a particular instance of ~~said one a resource in said set of resources of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;~~

indicating that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; and

logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

identifying other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 [[1]], further comprising the steps of:

selecting a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and

logically provisioning said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with any other one of said plurality of resources.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources; and  
indicating whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available to be selected utilizing said state variable.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
associating a state variable with the each one of said plurality of resources; and  
indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is shared utilizing said state variable.
8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
associating a state variable with the each one of said plurality of resources, wherein the state variable indicates whether the each one of said plurality of resources is available, being reserved, or reserved; and  
responsive to logically provisioning said selected particular instance to fulfill the request,  
indicating whether the each one of said plurality of resources is reserved utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said provisioning ~~environment~~ environment.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
creating a topology for said provisioning environment, said topology including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and  
said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:  
utilizing said relationships defined by said layout to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
determining other ones of said plurality of resources that are to be associated with said particular instance.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
determining other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.

13. (Currently amended) A data processing system for logically provisioning resources ~~in a data processing system~~, comprising:

~~said system including a~~ a CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code for receiving to receive~~ a request for ~~one of a set of resources in~~ a plurality of resources in a provisioning environment, ~~wherein each resource in said set of resources is said one of said plurality of resources being~~ one of a plurality of different types of resources, ~~wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;~~

~~said system including a~~ the CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code for selecting to select~~ a particular instance of said one of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;

~~a state variable, wherein the state variable indicates that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; and~~

~~said system including a~~ the CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code~~ [[for]] ~~to~~ logically provisioning ~~provision~~ said selected particular instance by adding said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources.

14. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:

~~said system including a~~ the CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code for identifying to identify~~ other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

15. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 14 [[13]], further comprising:

~~said system including a~~ the CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code for selecting to select~~ a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and

~~said system including a~~ the CPU, wherein ~~the CPU executing executes code~~ [[for]] ~~to~~ logically provisioning ~~provision~~ said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:  
said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with any other one of said plurality of resources.
18. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a state variable associated with each one of said plurality of resources;  
said state variable for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is available to be selected utilizing said state variable.
19. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a state variable associated with each one of said plurality of resources;  
said state variable for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is shared utilizing said state variable.
20. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a state variable associated with each one of said plurality of resources;  
said state variable for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is reserved utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said provisioning environment.
21. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 13, further comprising:  
a topology created for said provisioning environment, said topology including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and  
said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
22. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 21, further comprising:  
said relationships defined by said layout being utilized to identify other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.
23. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 22, further comprising:  
~~said system including a the CPU, wherein the CPU executing executes code for determining to~~  
determine other ones of said plurality of resources that are associated with said particular instance.

24. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 22, further comprising:  
~~said system including a the CPU, wherein the CPU executing executes code for determining to~~  
determine other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, on a recordable type computer readable medium having computer readable instructions, for use in a data processing system for logically provisioning resources, said product comprising:

instruction means for receiving a request ~~for one of a set of resources in a~~ plurality of resources in a provisioning environment, ~~wherein each resource in said set of resources is said one of said plurality of resources being~~ one of a plurality of different types of resources, ~~wherein said plurality of different types of resources comprises hardware elements and software elements;~~

instruction means for selecting a particular instance of said one of said plurality of resources from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources;

instruction means for indicating that said selected particular instance is in the process of being reserved, wherein said selected particular instance is unavailable for selection after indicating the particular instance is being reserved; and

instruction means for logically provisioning said selected particular instance by adding said selected particular instance to fulfill the request by establishing logical relationships between said selected particular instance and other resources.

26. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:

instruction means for identifying other ones of said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.

27. (Currently amended) The product according to claim 26 [25], further comprising:

instruction means for selecting a particular instance for each of said other ones from a group of unassigned available resources of said plurality of different types of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use; and

instruction means for logically provisioning said selected particular instance for each of said other ones by adding said selected particular instance for each of said other ones to fulfill a request by establishing logical relationships between each of said other ones and said provisioning environment.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:  
said group of unassigned available resources including no preassigned logical associations with  
any other one of said plurality of resources.
30. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:  
instruction means for associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources;  
instruction means for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is available to be  
selected utilizing said state variable.
31. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:  
instruction means for associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources;  
instruction means for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is shared utilizing  
said state variable.
32. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:  
instruction means for associating a state variable with each one of said plurality of resources;  
instruction means for indicating whether each one of said plurality of resources is reserved  
utilizing said state variable, wherein a reserved resource has an established logical relationship with said  
provisioning environment.
33. (Original) The product according to claim 25, further comprising:  
instruction means for creating a topology for said provisioning environment, said topology  
including a layout of said plurality of different types of resources; and  
said layout defining relationships among said plurality of different types of resources.
34. (Original) The product according to claim 33, further comprising:  
instruction means for utilizing said relationships defined by said layout to identify other ones of  
said plurality of resources that said selected particular instance requires for use.
35. (Original) The product according to claim 34, further comprising:  
instruction means for determining other ones of said plurality of resources that are associated with  
said particular instance.

36. (Original) The product according to claim 34, further comprising:  
instruction means for determining other ones of said plurality of resources that depend on said particular instance.
37. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.
38. (New) The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.
39. (New) The product according to claim 25, wherein the request comprises a list of previously reserved resources to be used to satisfy the request.